

"It certainly would," was my reply. I thought a minute and said: "Suppose you write to the Sisters in Pittsburg. They visit the hospitals. They would make inquiries. If good is to be effected we must go about it quietly."

Her letter went that day, giving an account of Bessie and asking the superior to ascertain if the man had a sister, and what his sentiments were. But nothing was to be said to Bessie till information was obtained.

Nearly two weeks elapsed. We were giving up hope and were glad Bessie knew nothing about it, when the superior came to me with a thick letter in her hand. I knew by her face there was news.

"Here is the reply to that letter, Father Alexander, and we must tell Bessie at once. I will do so, while you read the letter. It is quite a document."

She departed, and I learned that the Sisters in Pittsburg had gone to the Southside Hospital, a non-Catholic institution, and were received very kindly. They found that a man by the name of Charles Horton was there. When told two Sisters of Mercy wanted to see him, he was extremely unwilling, and only after being urged, consented to have them enter his room.

He was weak and miserable and evidently not far from the end. He was barely civil and declared he was not a Catholic, and seemed so ill at ease that it was distressing to talk to him. Finally the Sister spoke of the letter from St. Louis, and asked him if he had not a sister there. Instantly his face changed, and eagerly he held out his hand.

"Yes, oh, yes; I have. How do you know it? Is she well?"

"She is praying for you every day. She is searching the world for one word about you. She loves you as much to-day as when you were a curly-headed little fellow, telling her your troubles."

The hard face softened more.

"Yes," he said, "that's Bessie—just like her. How she would hurry here if she knew."

"But she cannot come. Don't you know that she hurt her back fifteen years ago, and is crippled ever since? Don't you know that she cannot move out of bed, but suffers terrible agony of the nerves and muscles? And don't you know she